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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/617,477	07/11/2003	Steven Roy Lipscomb	320400-00004	3454

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Patent Administrator  
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EXAMINER

COLLINS, DOLORES R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3711	

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/617,477	<b>Applicant(s)</b> LIPSCOMB ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Dolores R. Collins	<b>Art Unit</b> 3712	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

**A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.**

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 & 11-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9 and 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/8/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1 & 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Horgan et al. (758).

Horgan et al. discloses an Illuminated Pool Table.

#### Regarding claim 1

Horgan clearly teaches the limitations of this claim.

#### Regarding claim 3

Horgan clearly teaches optical fibers installed in a crevice (trough)  
(see col. 3, lines 15-18).

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2. Claims 1-8 & 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Shirley, Jr. (640).

Shirley, Jr. discloses an Illuminated Pool Game Table.

Regarding claim 1

Shirley clearly teaches the limitations of this claim.

Regarding claim 2

Shirley teaches a table that meets the limitations of this claim. No specific structure is claimed by the limitations of this claim (see MPEP 2112). Any portion of the table meets the claim limitations.

Regarding claim 3

See figure 3, wherein the area adjacent "48" inherently defines a trough.

Regarding claims 4 & 5

See figures 1 and col. 5, lines 7-17.

Regarding claim 6

Shirley clearly teaches a transparent peripheral bumper, i.e., a light window (46), wherein a portion defines a "window" which is flush with the playing surface.

Regarding claim 7

Any portion of the bumper (46) is an armrest (see MPEP 2112).

Regarding claim 8

Shirley teaches surface (32) that is 'configured' for a poker tournament. No structure or indicia is set forth in this claim (see MPEP 2112).

Regarding claim 11

Shirley inherently teaches access holes to allow lights (48) to be changed.

Regarding claim 12

Shirley teaches in figure 3 (52) a means to vent heat and light from the bulbs.

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3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Vasalech (778).

Vasalech discloses Luminescent Billiard Game System.

Regarding claim 1

Vasalech clearly teaches the limitations of this claim.

4. Claims 1, 2, 7 & 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chao et al. (439).

Chao discloses Luminated Table Top With Multiple Games Roll Chart.

Regarding claim 1

Chao clearly teaches the limitations of this claim.

Regarding claim 2

Chao teaches a table top with multiple games see (figure 1 & abstract). Inherently, Chao teaches player and dealer locations.

Regarding claim 7

Chao teaches a table top with multiple games see (figure 1 & abstract). Inherently, players will use their location at the table as arm rests.

Regarding claim 13

Chao teaches the use of fluorescent lights (see figure 2).

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Murrey et al. (796).

Murray discloses a Game Table with Lights.

Regarding claim 1

Murrey clearly teaches the limitations of this claim.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chao et al. (439) in view of Orenstein (054).

Chao discloses Luminated Table Top With Multiple Games Roll Chart.

Regarding claim 8

Chao fails to explicitly teach that one of his games is Poker or a Poker tournament. Orenstein discloses a Poker Tournament. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the configuration of Chao's table to facilitate a Poker Tournament to add flexibility for the players.



***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 9-10<sup>a</sup> are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***


The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure and are cited to show the state of art with respect to features of the claimed invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ***Dolores R. Collins*** whose telephone number is ***(571) 272-4421***. The examiner can normally be reached on 8.00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M..


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, ***Greg Vidovich*** can be reached on ***(571) 272-4415***. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is ***703-872-9306***.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at **866-217-9197** (toll-free).

  
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December 8, 2004

  
GREGORY VIDOVICH  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700